

Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Benefit-Cost Results

Functional Family Therapy (youth on probation)

Benefit-cost estimates updated July 2015. Literature review updated December 2014.

Current estimates replace old estimates. Numbers will change over time as a result of model inputs and monetization methods.

The WSIPP benefit-cost analysis examines, on an apples-to-apples basis, the monetary value of programs or policies to determine whether the benefits from the program exceed its costs. WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies has three main steps. First, we determine "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using a statistical technique called meta-analysis. Second, we calculate whether the benefits of a program exceed its costs. Third, we estimate the risk of investing in a program by testing the sensitivity of our results. For more detail on our methods, see our technical documentation.

Program Description: Functional Family Therapy (FFT) is a structured family-based intervention that uses a multi-step approach to enhance protective factors and reduce risk factors in the family. Functional Family Therapy is a Blueprint program identified by the University of Colorado's Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence. In our analysis, we only include effect sizes from programs that were delivered competently and with fidelity to the program model.

Benefit-Cost Summary							
Program benefits		Summary statistics					
Participants	\$4,218	Benefit to cost ratio	\$8.92				
Taxpayers	\$7,808	Benefits minus costs	\$26,973				
Other (1)	\$17,060	Probability of a positive net present value	99 %				
Other (2)	\$1,293						
Total	\$30,378						
Costs	(\$3,405)						
Benefits minus cost	\$26,973						

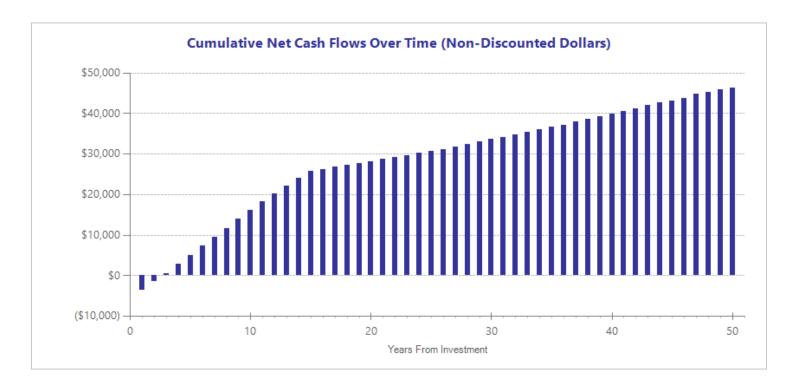
The estimates shown are present value, life cycle benefits and costs. All dollars are expressed in the base year chosen for this analysis (2014). The economic discount rates and other relevant parameters are described in our technical documentation.

Detailed Monetary Benefit Estimates								
Carrage of bornefits	Benefits to							
Source of benefits	Participants	Taxpayers	Other (1)	Other (2)	Total benefits			
From primary participant								
Crime	\$0	\$5,378	\$15,370	\$2,700	\$23,448			
Labor market earnings (hs grad)	\$4,293	\$1,831	\$2,124	\$0	\$8,249			
Health care (educational attainment)	(\$76)	\$598	(\$435)	\$300	\$388			
Adjustment for deadweight cost of program	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$1,707)	(\$1,707)			
Totals	\$4,218	\$7,808	\$17,060	\$1,293	\$30,378			

We created the two "other" categories to report results that do not fit neatly in the "participant" or "taxpayer" perspectives. In the "Other (1)" category we include the benefits of reductions in crime victimization, the economic spillover benefits of improvement in human capital outcomes, and the benefits from private or employer-paid health insurance. In the "Other (2)" category we include estimates of the net changes in the value of a statistical life and net changes in the deadweight costs of taxation.

Barnoski, R. (2009, December). Providing evidence-based programs with fidelity in Washington State juvenile courts: Cost analysis (Document No. 09-12-1201). Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

The figures shown are estimates of the costs to implement programs in Washington. The comparison group costs reflect either no treatment or treatment as usual, depending on how effect sizes were calculated in the meta analysis. The uncertainty range is used in Monte Carlo risk analysis, described in our technical documentation.



Meta-Analysis of Program Effects											
Outcomes measured	Primary or secondary participant	No. of effect sizes	Treatment N	Unadjusted effect size (random effects model)		Adjusted effect sizes and standard errors used in the benefit- cost analysis First time ES is estimated Second time ES is estimated					
				ES	p-value	ES	SE	Age	ES	SE	Age
Crime	Primary	8	681	-0.585	0.001	-0.253	0.096	16	-0.253	0.096	26

Citations Used in the Meta-Analysis

- Alexander, J.F., & Parsons, B.V. (1973). Short-term behavioral intervention with delinquent families: Impact on family process and recidivism. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 81(3), 219-225.
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- Sexton, T., & Turner, C.W. (2010). The effectiveness of Functional Family Therapy for youth with behavioral problems in a community practice setting. Journal of Family Psychology, 24(3), 339-348.

For further information, contact: (360) 586-2677, institute@wsipp.wa.gov

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